

GREED 1131

Chapter 1131 The Unquenched Anger.

How else will a giant of order be so small if they are not a child? This man must be at least a transcendent to change his body size like that. But she has it in good authority that he is more dangerous than that.

Her tattoo is tingling in warning so she knows this man is definitely a threat to her. That's why she wasn't forceful or angry when the man didn't answer her. He simply smiled at her. She made more gestures to her squad with her hand.

She told them to "Prepare for battle." While she said to the man, "We are demorgorgs of the kingdom of life. Our current objective is backed by the god-king. To oppose us is to oppose the god-king."

The man finally spoke. He said, "Run."

They didn't run. They formed up and brought out their weapons to fight. The man sneered. Then he brought up his hand and produced a ball of light in it. One might think it is a ball of light because it is so white. They would be wrong to think so.

The leader of the demorgorgs saw the ball of light and her eyes widened. It wasn't only her that had an adverse reaction to the sight. They all felt danger and heard the call of death.

"Wait..." she tried to say.

"Too late." The man said.

He had already warned them so the ball of light turned into a white snake and dashed at the leader. She roared as she defended against the attack. Her tattoos glowed a dark ominous light. A terrifying phantom force erupted from her. It formed a dark maelstrom of energy around her. She took hold of the maelstrom and stretched forth her hand towards the white snake. The maelstrom was forced into the shape of her hand. It formed a giant phantom of a black-clawed hand that clashed with the white snake.

There was a flash of light accompanied by the boom of thunder. The ruin shook with the force of the collision. But it was not a collision. It was more of an explosion.

The phantom disintegrated as soon as it touched the white snake. It could not resist at all. The dark energy that made up the black phantom hand scattered forcefully in an explosion that created heat blasts.

The snake penetrated it all the while disintegrating it as it passed. Then the snake tore through the leader too. The shockwave that shook the room occurred because the leader was made to explode.

The same thing happened to the other demorgorgs. Their leader who is equivalent to a king of law couldn't mount a significant defense. They are clearly outmatched. But they didn't run. They fought until the last man. The sight of their comrades burned to ashes didn't discourage them.

The man's eyes gleamed as he watched their death. He could have killed them all instantly but he didn't. He watched them die while smiling. His eyes glowed with the same white light of the lightning snake. His eyes zapped and sparkled dangerously with tiny popping sounds that resembled tiny thunderclaps as he watched. He is excited by the show.

"Mortals and their fragile life. It is always fun to see life leave their fragile existence." He said with a face flushed with pleasure.

The darkness rose from the man's shadow after all the demorgorgs were dead. It had a strange being in its hand. This being is humanoid. It has a dark hairy skin, two ram-like horns on its head, and two black wings on its back.

The darkness said to its captive. "Use your ability here. Make sure to destroy everything you see with it. Focus on the scorched surfaces."

The high-rank demon replied, "Your wish will be done."

"Good. Get to it then." It said and released the high-rank demon.

The demon got to work immediately. It began to attack the surroundings with fire. Balls of flames were used to destroy the surroundings. The explosion of fire changed the ruins completely. It even hid the sighs of the explosion caused by the lightning snake.

The darkness said to the man, "I hope you have been appeased now."

The man snorted. He didn't say anything. So the darkness continued. "It doesn't seem like it. You are still angry. Maybe even more angry. Then all these demorgorgs died for nothing and you have angered the god-king for nothing."

The man exclaimed in anger, "Fu#k the god-king."

He truly wasn't appeased by killing the demorgorgs. That amount of violence is not enough to quench his anger. It boiled within him and threatened to spill over.

He said in anger, "I should just go there right now and destroy the god-king myself. He should fear me, not the way around. I used to rule this world. Storm and Lightning obeyed me. If tales of my might have been forgotten then I should write new tales."

"Well, you can't fight him. We don't even know if you will win. But it doesn't matter if you can win. We will go according to plan. And that is to corner the god-king. You know we can't kill him yet. We need him. Look at what he has done to the plane."

The man had to agree. "That's true. The plane has changed. But it looks worse than what I remember it to be."

"No, it doesn't. It looks vibrant and alive."

"I don't think so. The plane looks sick with all the green that I see everywhere."

The darkness sighed. "Your aesthetics have been warped by violence. Anyway, the plane is doing very well thanks to the god king. I heard things got really bad in the past. Zernon really drove the plane to its knees. He almost killed the plane. But the god-king saved the plane and managed to bring it back to life. There aren't any more deserts. Forests abound wherever you look. And there are the demorgorgs too. What do you think about them?"

Chapter 1132 Freedom Vs Immortality.

The man shrugged as he answered, "The demorgorgs are not bad."

He doesn't like them but he can be objective enough about their power. It is the least he could do after killing them.

The shadow continued, "Bad or not, we need manpower for the era of conquest."

The man finally relented, "I have heard you. We are not going to kill the god-king, yet"

But his eyes continued gleaming dangerously. He was staring at the demon with those gleaming eyes. The poor demon shook in fear when he sensed the gaze and the evil intent that accompanied it. It tried to run. It dashed towards the nearest escape but it was too late. The lightning snake dashed towards it.

The high-rank demon paled when it sensed the shadow of death. A black tentacle rose out of the demon's shadow and slapped the lightning snake aside. It saved the demon from dying.

"Come on." The man cried out. "Let me kill it.

The darkness tutted. "We have to let it go. We can't let the single demon responsible for all these damages die here. What will the investigators think when you kill the demon? They will surely think a third party witnessed the event and took advantage of the fight to kill the injured demon. Then they will start looking for a third party. They will start looking for us."

"Kill joy." The man muttered.

The demon sighed in relief and continued to escape. But the black tentacle in its shadow tripped it.

It fell to the ground pleading, "Please spare me. I have done everything you asked for. I'll do anything else you want. Spare me."

The shadow didn't listen. It made the black tentacle dig into the demon's head and straight into its mind. The high-rank demon screamed in agony as its mind was violated. Its mind was scrambled in a very painful and careless manner. Any type of tampering with the mind will be painful but this is mind-breaking and it is intentional.

The mind of the demon actually broke. It was then that the black tentacle let it go. The demon had become quiet now. Its eyes were unfocused. It is walking in a shambling daze. It can't even move its left leg so its right leg is made to pull its whole body. The two of them watched the demon scramble away like a drunk.

The darkness said, "There. Now it won't remember us and no method to read its memories will work. It has become easy prey to the other demons. Any investigator will follow its trails and forget about us. We should leave now. We don't want to be here when another team comes to investigate. We wouldn't want you to have to eliminate them."

The man said, "I don't like you following me around. You are ruining my fun."

The darkness retorted. "I don't like following you around and keeping you in line either. But you are definitely not reasonable so you can't be left alone. The others wanted me to follow you to make sure that you don't create trouble for us."

The man sighed. "I am so powerful and immortal. Yet, I have a babysitter. What kind of fate is this?"

He is not foolish. He just can't take things seriously since he can't die. After all, what's the worst thing that could happen to him? His fear of the repercussions of his actions has been dulled by immortality.

The darkness chastised, "It is a fate that is required in order to achieve something greater than immortality. The era of conquest is our opportunity to take the next step. You will have to bear with the sacrifice of holding back."

"Fine. But I get to kill the god-king when we are done with him." It said that then it turned into a lightning snake itself.

Its body broke apart into tiny lights. It is as if he put off his mortal shell. The energy within him became free. It formed the white snake and zipped out of the ruins leaving behind a thunderclap that shook the ruins down to its foundation. If not for the fact that the ruins are buried and supported by the earth on all sides, then the simple repercussion of leaving the building would have destroyed it.

The ruins returned to peace and quiet for a short while until someone came to investigate. But nothing useful came of their investigation. So the death of an entire squad of demorgorgs was taken as an unfortunate accident.

If not for the fact that everyone in the squad died then it wouldn't have been mentioned to the leader of the demorgorgs. If not that the only signs to the enemy that killed them turned out to be a high rank demon that died soon after then the Leader of the demorgorgs wouldn't have bothered to mention the event to the Godking at all during his daily meeting with the god king.

Hak was kneeling in front of his god. He has his head bowed and his hands joined together in prayer. He is praying to his god and his god is actually listening. It is not a delusion either. His god is a real being that he can see and others can also see.

He doesn't need faith and delusions to sense the majesty or see the physical body of the king of gods. His god king stands before him in all his wonderous glory. All he has to do is look.

He comes here every day to the inner sanctuary to meet his god and to pray in its majestic presence. It is prayer but he is actually communicating with his god instead of it being a one-sided conversation.

He said to his god, "A squad of demorgorgs died in one of the ruins of the old cities. All 21 of them including their 4-star squad leader died."

This is just one of the numerous reports that he has brought to his god. He knows that the god-king probably knows about all of these but he says it anyway to prove that he is doing his job right and that he also knows the things he should know.

Chapter 1133 The God-king.

The tall and majestic tree that had been silent finally spoke, "Hmmm."

The tree father doesn't have any mouth so he spoke with his divine sense. What he said can also be heard without a divine sense. His branches are swayed in such a way that the air that moved through them was made to vibrate to make that sound. So Hak heard his god through both spiritual and physical means. He bowed his head lower because of it.

The tree father asked him, "What do you think of the death of an entire squad of demorgorgs? So many haven't died like that in a long time."

Hak considered the question carefully before he replied. "The leader of the squad was a four-star demorgorg. It would have required a demon noble to kill her. Demon nobles have not been seen ever since the demons were banished. They have been hunted to near extinction which will explain why the traces of one were not found at the sight."

"Instead, we found traces of a high-rank demon. The difference is clear to us. We demorgorgs are highly sensitive to traces of demons so we are sure that there was no demon noble there since we didn't sense the unified energy signatures of one."

The tree father interrupted. "I know all these. What I want is your recommended course of action. It is your men that died after all."

"In light of this anomaly, I recommend that we expand and intensify our investigations. At least, we will be able to get the true perpetrator and avenge my fallen brethren. And in the case where we find that demon nobles have managed to find a way to survive in the plane by hiding their energy signatures, then we might be able to crack their method and capture more of them to expand our ranks."

The suggestion sounded good to the tree father so he agreed. "Do that. I will support you with one of my vessels."

"May your grace and mercy abide with us forever," Hak said in worship.

The tree father is curious about their deaths. He couldn't see beyond his kingdom but he made arrangements inside each demorgorgs to sense their conditions and collect data to improve his research. So he was able to sense their deaths.

It came to him as a surprise when they all died in the span of time less than a second. It made him understand that their deaths were not simple. That's why he wants to accompany the team that goes to investigate with one of his vessels. At any other time, he wouldn't care so much about a few of his properties dying.

He asked Hak, "Is there anything else?"

Hak replied, "I am sure you know but I want to say nonetheless that a new batch of candidates are going to come soon for their initiation into the order."

"Everything has been prepared for them?"

"Yes, my god."

"Good. You may leave. We will resume our communion tomorrow."

Hak nodded and turned to leave. He is in his full Colossal form so he is 10 kilometers tall. It is a size that hasn't been achieved by giants of Order in a long time because of the terrible energy requirements.

The last giant of order to reach this height was the champion that led them to the ancient battlefield. There was a lot of Origin energy there to sustain such a height. But it was the terrible Origin energy consumption that made giants of order into outcasts that were rejected and shunned.

There is no Origin energy in the plane but Hak can still reach this height because he is a five-star demorgorg. His tattoo doesn't look any different from that of other demorgorgs. They are black chains that seem to bind him tightly. There is also a face frozen in anguish on his back.

The chains are actually binding something within him. He used to be a priest of the sun god, but now he is a priest for the son of the sun god and he has a demon lord trapped within his body. It is why he is so tall and why he can fight a titan of law despite being a transcendent. But even with his height, he still looks small compared to his god.

He had to be at his full size just so that he could approach the god-king quickly. Without the current boost to his height, he wouldn't be able to scale the roots of the god-king since he can't fly. Even now, the roots are up to his waist. That means some roots are 5 kilometers above the ground level. That is their thickness and not their length. They are practically mountains.

That's what others will think when they see them. They will see the roots that look like rolling mountains that extend for kilometers on end. They won't be able to see the Titanic tree which the roots belong to unless they are far away from the mountain range.

He on the other hand has the pleasure of seeing the full form of the godking. But he only dares to take quick peeks. He keeps his head bowed most of the time. It is partly due to his immense fanatical obsession and mostly because he is still a transcendent.

Gazing on the glorious form of a god as powerful as the god of Life, Sun, and Order is a very dangerous gambit. He has burned out his eyes before in an attempt to do so. Fortunately, he managed not to fry his mind because he gazed too long at the majesty of the god of gods.

He thought to himself ruefully, "To think I raised him from when he was a baby and here I look like a baby compared to his size."

The size difference always brings back memories of his days taking care of Helios. He always knew that Helios was made for greater things since he was a demigod, but Helios had gone far beyond his highest expectations.

Chapter 1134 The Right Choice.

The ancient Sun god, Helios' father died, his demigod brothers and sisters died, and even the gods died but he is still standing and he is standing strong. No one could have predicted this outcome when Helios was sent off by the people of the sun city.

At most, they thought he would acquire a feat that would help him become a god himself. Then the world war happened where the gods fought each other. Helios survived that and also survived the invasion of the demons. Now the gods are dead and the demons have been banished from the plane.

Hak couldn't help but marvel when he thought about everything that had happened in the past thousand years. "I made the right choice in supporting Helios.

Some say that he betrayed the sun god. Those people are right but he doesn't care. He knows he betrayed the sun god for his son. The sun god was ancient and stagnant. Then his son came along and replaced him. It was the same son that he himself was entrusted with to raise.

Besides the attachment he had to Helios which had a part to play in his decision to stick to the son of the sun god, the sun god couldn't give him the power he received from Helios. So Helios is the better option. History has proved it to be so. Supporting Helios was the right choice while the sun god is nowhere to be found.

The tree father was at peace despite the news of the death of 21 demorgorgs. He is being informed a little more than a month after the deaths have happened so the situation has lost its urgency. It is not that he is uncaring about the deaths. He is as caring as someone who cares a lot about their possessions. But he has a lot of demorgorgs so he is not too hurt by the loss.

Even now, more demorgorgs are being trained in several camps across his kingdom. Some will be created soon today during the initiation ceremony that takes place every month. He gets a constant flow of demorgorgs for him to be hung up about the death of 21 of them.

Demorgorgs are the main fighting power of the kingdom of life apart from the plant spirits. They are the creation of both the Tree Father and Helios. The fusion of their knowledge of runes, divine energy, and sin energy produced this fruit which is an alternate path of power for the giants of order.

The demorgorgs function as the policing and military force of the kingdom since he doesn't want to and shouldn't use his vessels for everything. It is best that his believers are used for such matters. When their ability to safeguard the plane is added to their usefulness as believers and research subjects, it makes giants of order very useful and Legion very efficient with resources.

Giants of order are trained right from a young age in academies dedicated to producing soldiers with exceptional mental resilience. This training continues for years during which they are instilled with discipline and complete loyalty to their god king. Some might call it brainwashing. They would be wrong to do so.

The trainees only become demorgorgs after they become transcendents. It is at that point that they come to the tree father for the initiation. The tree father is the only entity that can perform the rites after all.

A four-star demorgorg came soon after with a bunch of recruits. The recruits are fresh out of the academy. They have met the requirements to become demorgorgs.

The four-star demorgorg led them to the outer sanctuary where the roots of the tree father stop. That is where the mountain range flattens into the surrounding forest. That's where the initiation will occur. The recruits are too small and weak to get past all the roots and trees that form the inner sanctuary.

The four-star demorgorg led the way while the recruits followed in a straight line like ducklings following their mother. They kept their head bowed in reverence despite their awe. They can see the top of the tree father from here. Their position is far enough to see where the crown of the god-king meets the boundary of the sky.

The crown itself is composed of three types of leaves of fire. The flames that make up the leaves have three colors, white, orange, and green. So there are white, Orange, and green leaves.

These leaves in addition to the glowing white branches and trunk make anyone who gazes upon the tree understand beyond any doubt that the tree is special. This beautiful sight is only overwhelmed by the fact that the god-king is so tall that he reaches the sky.

The four-star demorgorg ordered his recruits with a shout, "Stand at attention!"

All 11 of them stood straight immediately and saluted with their right hand formed into a fist over their chest while their left hand was by their side. They waited like that for a while until the wind started to blow. It was a gentle wind that rustled their hair playfully.

Many of them were overwhelmed by the development. They have seen their god and see him every day but this is the first time they are feeling his attention on them. They want to cry or shout or jump. They want to do something to express the joy welling up within them. But they kept their composure. They didn't even smile. Though some of them shed silent tears, none of them broke their form.

The wind flowed around them and inspected them closely. Those that pass the inspection are then initiated. Leaves that detached from the god-king himself came to them along with the wind. These leaves of three colors were then deposited on their bodies.

Most of them shook and stifled some sounds as soon as the leaves touched them. The leaves look like tongues of fire. They are actually tongues of fire. They are real flames that burn and consume.

Chapter 1135 Initiation.

The skins of the recruits became the recipients of the attention of the burning leaves. The leaves licked their skin and burned it like any fire would do. But they don't burn haphazardly. The wounds they leave behind form black lines that look like the drawings of a chain.

The process of initiation is very painful. Fire licked their skin to form patterned injuries. The dormant law fragments in their skin were activated with divine energy. The divine energy of Order was used so the law fragments were reinforced instead of being completely destabilized.

The process of reinforcement was accompanied by the destabilization of the divine energy of the sun. The law fragments were broken down by the divine energy of the sun and then reshaped with the divine energy of Order. So it is like a metal smith using heat and some extra metal to weld pieces of metal together. All of these led to the creation of simple black lines on their skin.

The recruits have to endure the process or it will be ruined if they move. It is not that the tree father cannot make the runes even if they move. It is the fact that they do not have the mental resilience strong enough to withstand the pain. In that case, the rune will be useless on them even if it is completed.

It is a difficult process but it is not one that they are not prepared for. They exercised painfully for most of their life. Their bodies and minds have been broken several times by the intensive training. The pools of diluted divine life energy in their academy healed and put them back together for them to repeat their exercise so they are no strangers to pain.

The bodies of the initiates are strong and their minds are resilient. Besides, they are transcendents, they have perfect control over their bodies. They just have to will themselves not to move. How difficult is that?

It is not that difficult since only 3 of the 11 failed. Or it seems to be very difficult since 3 of them failed despite years of preparation and perfect control of their bodies. 2 of them moved away from the embrace of the wind to avoid the pain so the flow of leaves to them stopped. The 3rd one jerked away in agony. Their tattoos became incomplete because of their actions.

The three that stopped were dejected but they didn't make any sound or complaints. They remained in line with the others. It was only after the initiation for the others was completed that the leader gave the order to move. The initiates followed after him wordlessly.

He didn't turn back to his initiates as he said, "You three will return to the academy for another round of training. You can return for another try when you have been deemed fit. Know that this is your last chance. If you fail it, then you will not be able to serve the great god as a demorgorg. For the rest of you, you will continue to follow me. You are not demorgorgs yet until you get your first star."

This group of the leader and his initiates separated once they reached the edge of the outer sanctuary. There were soldiers waiting for them at the edge. These soldiers are different from the ones that patrol the edge of the outer sanctuary. They are trainers of the academy.

These trainers took the initiates with incomplete tattoos back to the academy with them. As for the remainders, they followed the four-star demorgorg just as they were instructed to do. Their entire bodies from head to toe have been etched deep with the chain that binds them.

This chain is not fixed in position. It is moving about. In fact, it is jiggling and clanging against each other like normal physical chains. It is as if they are draped with actual chains and not tattoos of chains.

The behavior of their chains is different from that of the full demorgorg leading them. The chains on the body of the four-star demorgorg are taut and tight. It is as if something is straining against it.

The initiates also don't have a face on their backs like the full demorgorgs do. They will soon acquire the face. It is what they are going to get now to become full demorgorgs. Each one of them is excited but they culled that excitement in favor of focus. They will need that focus soon.

The four-star demorgorg led them to a gated compound. The security at the gate let them in quickly once they saw that they were a group of initiates. Such a sight is very common to them.

The initiates were then led to an access vault that led to an underground complex. This complex is where they will get their first star. They have been training for it all their lives and have been here several times so they were not spooked or scared of the unnatural sounds of moaning and groaning that can be heard from the cells within the complex.

The cells are all identical. They are small secured rooms that closely resemble prison cells. Each cell is separated from the others by thick enchanted walls made of metal.

The complex itself was built by the god-king himself. It is a large underground structure that is more than a kilometer long and wide. It is highly fortified and secure.

The complex looks like a prison because it is a prison. Each cell contains a demon. It can be said that the demons are imprisoned, which doesn't seem odd as that is the only way to contain a demon. But the conditions of their imprisonment will make one pity them.

The initiates were led to the first level which is for low rank demons who are the equivalent of mana entities. They had to pass through several layers of security protocols just to reach this relatively harmless location. Below this level are more powerful and sinister demons. They can't handle those yet so they will stop here.

Chapter 1136 How To Become A Demorgorg.

Their four-star demorgorg said to them. "You know what to do. I will give you 5 minutes to complete the binding process."

The initiates know what to do. They have seen it being done before and have trained for it. So they scrambled toward their assigned cells without hesitation. They had gotten access cards which they used now to open the doors of the cells.

Inside the cell is their target. It is a demon pierced through from all sides by runic spikes. The spikes extend from the walls and pin the demons at the center of the cell. Each spike has penetrated the demon from one side to the other so their sharp tip can be seen after passing through the flesh of the demon.

The demons are different in size and shape but they are all bleeding and have been bleeding for years. Their unpalatable situation has weakened to the extent that they are too weak to open their eyes or react to the existence of an intruder. Their current weakened state will make them easier to subdue.

Each initiate got to work immediately. They placed their hands on the demons. The loose chains on their body reacted immediately. They unwound and unraveled. Then they detached from the body of the initiates and flailed about like thin tentacles.

The chains are still connected to the initiates at their roots. They are all connected to the backs of the initiates.

The flailing chains then latched onto the defenseless demons and sank into their bodies. The chains didn't encounter resistance because they were intangible. But then they began to drag the demons towards the initiates. Something intangible shouldn't be able to do that.

The spikes jutting through the demons withdrew at this point into the reinforced walls so that there was no resistance to the pulling of the chains. This singular action caused so much pain that the demons cried or screeched in response to their suffering.

But the initiates didn't stop. The demons were pulled until they came into contact with the chest of the initiates. Then they were pulled further until they actually sank into the skin of the initiates just like the intangible chains that bind them. It was like a rock falling into the water, they caused small waves to ripple across the skin of the initiates.

Every initiate fell to their knells in agony at that point. They had trained for the initiation by withstanding being beaten by hot rods. The pain of that kind of training is double-fold. There is the physical impact of the rod on their bodies and then the searing of their bodies by the heat of the rods.

The hot rods practically cut into their bodies. They were scarred and healed repeatedly by the experience. It was to prepare for this moment. But that experience is mild compared to the initiation process.

Their training only affected their bodies. The chains on the other hand had to be seared on their bodies and their souls. Even that doesn't compare with the agony that they are feeling now as the demons were thrust upon their existence.

Fortunately for them, the chains got to work on what they were designed for. The demons are being enslaved but the existence of the initiates has to be remolded into a prison that can take advantage of the enslavement.

The initiates trained for this too. They were made to carry a rock around for days. The rock got heavier over time. But they couldn't drop it for anything. They had to carry it with them whenever they moved or worked and it had to be on top of them whenever they slept.

It was stressful and painful at first. But they got used to it and completed their training. They were told several times that it couldn't compare to the actual thing. But you can't really know the burden of assimilating another entity's existence into yours until you actually do so.

Carrying heavy boulders does not do it justice. This is extra painful because it is a demonic entity that they are trying to assimilate, not a lifeless rock. Besides, the rock was outside their body, and couldn't resist. That is not so for the demons. If it is any consolation, the process is painful for both the initiates and the demon being enslaved.

The weakened demons had woken up from their stupor when the spikes were withdrawn. It was agonizing to have their wounds reopened but their pain has only increased as their broken bodies were forced into shapes that would have been painful had they been completely healthy. It is just right that they would resist this callous treatment.

The demons tried to escape this unnatural grasp of their existence but they failed. A low-rank demon cannot resist the divine power of a low god much less that of a Celestial.

Some lucky demons died then and there. Their existence was unfoiled and they became free of pain in death. The unlucky ones that survived the pain have their existence warped into a tool for power.

The law of order in the skin of the initiates and the divine power of order in their tattoo worked together to form a divine Stigmata which functions as an engine that siphons power from the demon imprisoned within it.

The tree father commented to himself and Helios, "The process is still excruciating and dangerous"

He can see what's going on here. This perception of his is not special at all. He can see everything that goes on in his kingdom. He knows when someone enters it or leaves. He can kill anyone here too. He might as well be omnipotent and omniscient in his kingdom for all intent and purposes. At least, it has always seemed so the numerous times his might has been tested.

He has been following this group of initiates since they left the sanctuary. He is particularly interested in their progress because the rune they are using is a new upgraded version. There is no physical difference from the previous ones so it will be very difficult to tell. The difference is supposed to be in how efficient they perform.

Chapter 1137 Soverick's Invented Artifact.

The rune to create demorgorgs was not created in a day. It all started with Stelios's rune that he made on Helios's back. Helios studied it and came up with changes that the tree father applied when he finally got access to Helios within the ant queen's abode.

It was then that Helios tried to break through and Stelios tried to take advantage of the situation only to be cornered and have half of his Celestial power ripped from him.

That was the first divine engine. It is a tool not made out of metal like most artifacts, but made out of flesh and blood given form by the presence of the fragments of order that giants possess. Its main function is to take advantage of another powerful being's existence to empower its wielder. It will siphon power and energy from its target for this purpose.

The divine engine could only do so for gods at first. But the gods are dead so that made them not an option to use. Soverick then perfected it by creating the tool that can take advantage of any existence including an Origin god's. What the tree father did next is to adapt that creation to the giants of order to take advantage of the available powerful beings around them. Those powerful beings are the demons.

Aeternus brought the demons to the Zargoth plane. He also created a portal that led to the abyss. Mana and sin energy flooded the plane through the portal. Demons did too. The tree father and Aeternus used the demons to make the areas outside the kingdom of life inhospitable and unaccommodating of life. They also decided to use demons to strengthen the giants of order. That's how the demorgorgs were created.

It is a good thing that the demorgorgs were formed. The portal is closed now so the supply of demons, sin energy, and mana ended with it. Aeternus also went into hiding which made controlling the demons difficult.

The demons actually became the enemies of the Kingdom of Life because of his absence. It was the demorgorgs that could fight them. Giants are usually resistant to spells. The demorgorgs took that resistance to another level. Spells created by sin energy will be directly negated. It made demorgorgs the bane of demons.

Demorgorgs could also finally use spells themselves using sin energy. It completed the characteristics needed for them to be called demon hunters and it sealed the fate of the demons.

The demons were beaten. They were hunted, captured, and used to create more demorgorgs which led to their inevitable defeat. The war against the demons led to the dwindling of their numbers and their scarcity. Demon nobles haven't been seen in a long time because of the mass hunting. That's why the elimination of an entire squad of demons cannot be taken lightly.

The leader of that squad had a demon noble sealed within her rune. It would have taken at least one demon noble and probably more to not only defeat her but also kill her and her entire squad. But the investigation revealed that there wasn't any sign of a demon noble at the crime scene.

If the demon nobles have found a way to hide, then this might be an opportunity to discover how they did it and increase the ranks of four-star demorgorgs. In a way, the loss of the 21 demorgorgs might lead to a boon for the demorgorgs.

These initiates are nowhere near that level of power. A low-rank demon is the equivalent of a mana entity meanwhile each of them are transcendents. The empowerment that low-rank demons give them won't make them powerful enough to fight lords of law. But they will be able to fight other transcendents that use Origin energy or demigods and they can grow larger than 1 kilometer thanks to sin energy.

"Let's see what can be improved." The tree father mused to himself as he observed the process closely.

The Demons that didn't die were warped into living tools. The chains have dug into them earlier to drag them. Those chains then went in to sear themselves into the demon's existence. They penetrated past the body of the demon to its soul and then its mark of sin.

A face frozen in pain then appeared on the back of the initiates. The chains have also become taut from binding the demon. The pain the demons are going through dwarves what Ghaster went through when Soverick used him to test his artifact.

The divine Stigmata is more advanced than Soverick's initial creation after years of development. It made Mana in the atmosphere funnel into the frozen and terrified faces on their back. It entered the demons in the rune and was converted to sin energy so the demons wouldn't degenerate or weaken as

Ghaster did. Even their wounds will heal so they can be in good health through their eternity of agonizing servitude.

Sin energy is then siphoned out of the demons into the chains all over the demorgorgs body. This has made giants of order gain access to energy other than the origin energy. Sin energy is better for them since they can't cast spells with mana or origin energy but they can cast spells now with the sin energy.

The law of order on their bodies doesn't break sin energy apart as it does to mana and Origin energy. Instead, it will give it form based on their thoughts. It had to be compelled to do so by divine energy the way Helios was able to use Origin energy too.

The four-star demorgorg said to them, "Well done. Congratulations on acquiring your first demon."

The initiates smiled and only smiled. That's all they can manage to do right now. The initiation has ended and there is no more pain but the demons are recovering within them which is increasing the burden on their existence so talking is a chore they can't manage to do right now.

Chapter 1138 The New Demorgorgs Vs The Old Demorgorgs.

The four-star demorgorg understood their plight so he just smiled and didn't rush them to stand.

The tree father was watching them while inspecting the data he was receiving from their runes. He is of the opinion that while the initiation process is difficult and will need some getting used to, it is great for the giants of orders. It is still great even though 2 initiates didn't survive the process.

These two died. They are different from the other 3 who failed because their demons died or the 3 who failed because they couldn't hold still during the tattooing. They can start again with other demons after a period of rest and training but these 2 can't.

The burden was too big for their existence. Their bodies broke apart as their consciousness crumbled. They died and scattered to ashes leaving behind a ball formed by the chains binding a demon tightly.

The leader said to the three that failed, "Two of you whose demons died will use the vestige that was left behind while the last one will pick a new demon to use. You will do this after resting for some days."

The 2 balls can still be used. It is usually how demons are transferred between demorgorgs. As long as the rune isn't damaged, a dead demorgorg will leave behind this ball which another demorgorg can assimilate.

The three initiates paled when they heard that they would have to try again. They thought the death of the demons they tried to enslave would disqualify them. Apparently, that is not the case and the pain they just went through was in vain. They couldn't help but feel fear despite their faith in their god.

Their leader roared at them, "Snap out of it. Fear is a sin and a weakness. You cannot be afraid if you want to subdue a demon. Remember your training!"

That calmed them down. They thought back to their training, specifically the weakness that they must avoid. They must avoid exhibiting the sins of demons. Emotions like wrath, lust, fear, etc are weaknesses that demons can exploit.

A demorgorg must have an inviolable will and perfect control over their emotions. It is not as important as the earlier versions of demorgorgs which were at risk of being corrupted by the demons they subdued.

Back then, the demons could communicate with their host and use that link to break the mind of the host causing their death. Even though that is not so anymore, weaknesses in emotions will increase their chances of failure so they steeled their will and got rid of their fear.

Their leader went on, "I am sure you will succeed after this painful experience. All of your training combined cannot help you prepare yourself more than this short brush with death could. Have you ever heard of a demorgorg dying while changing their demons? No, it doesn't happen. That's because they are already used to it. So be more confident in yourself."

What the leader didn't say is that it used to happen in the past. It is only recently that the rune has become better at upgrading a demorgorg from one star to two stars and more. Demorgorgs rarely die now due to the upgrade process.

He might have omitted a crucial detail but he is right in that their chances of survival have increased after this failed experience. The initiates can see the wisdom that led to that conclusion and why the 3

who failed the tattooing part of the initiation were sent off. would have probably died if they attempted to acquire their first star.

The tattooing is nothing compared to actually assimilating a demon. If they couldn't handle the tattooing then it is highly unlikely that they would be able to handle the assimilation. As it is, they might still die even if they return from training and succeed with the tattooing. After all, succeeding in getting the tattoo does little to prepare them for assimilation much less when they fail.

"Let's go!" The leader shouted at them.

Then he grabbed them and the vestiges with his solidified divine sense and carried them away. He knows that if they can't speak, there is no way they will be able to walk. As they are, they will be stuck on their beds for many days to come.

The underground prison for demons returned to serenity after they left. All that could be heard were the occasional moans of agony and shrieks of pain. But that is normal to hear here so it is peaceful. In fact, total silence would be considered out of place here.

The tree father observed to himself, "So a survival rate of 75%. That isn't bad. It is worth it at least."

6 out of the 8 of them survived the process. The survival rate can be increased if the tree father adds divine life energy to the rune on the initiates. This will heal them and keep them alive during the assimilation of the demon. A 100% survival rate can be ensured that way. But the tree father isn't going to spend divine life energy on that.

Demorgorgs were created to assist him and reduce his usage of divine energy. They take some of the burden of running a kingdom off of him. While the investment of divine life energy into creating demorgorgs at 100% is low, Legion is not willing to accept that expenditure. Especially when there are other clones that need it.

Divine life energy is useful for a lot of things. It is used to speed up growth in Ragnarok, Legion-5, and Legion-7. It is also needed for healing and the reconstruction of bodies for Legion-7 to use his ability.

The supply of divine life energy is not infinite and is not enough for all of Legion's needs. As it is, even if the clones don't need it urgently, the tree father won't spend it on some weaklings. He would rather

save it for when the clones need it. It is better to have divine life energy and not need it than to need it and not have it.

Chapter 1139 Limits To Quantity.

Besides, they already made an investment of divine life energy in the healing pools at the various academies for training future demorgorgs. That little investment brought about a return of 60% survivability on average. That is good enough for Legion.

The initiates left the demon prison. They all left happy. They have finally become what they trained all their lives for. They can't be sad anyway. They are alive and that's enough to be glad for. Those who failed and should be sad are already dead.

In this way, the tree father has put the giants of order to good use. The initiates are practically on par with demigods right now. It is something that runes and Stigmatas couldn't achieve. A demigod had to be the offspring of another god.

The process of acquiring that power is clearly very dangerous but it is worth it because there is no other option for giants of order to acquire power in the plane. Demigods don't exist anymore since the death of the gods. In fact, all the demigods that were transcendents and had fused with the divine power of their parents died together with their parents.

The way that the gods died implicated their descendants. Chaos energy is insidious that way. Every trace of their divine power was destroyed so that the gods wouldn't be able to resurrect in any way.

The only descendants of gods that survived that ordeal are those that were still mana entities when the gods died. But the survivors lost their runes. All runes in existence stopped working once all the gods died and the Authority of the Celestial Supreme was taken away.

The only person who can create runes and even do more to allow giants of order to acquire the power to fight titans of law is the one and only god-king. Every other giant of order is stuck at the transcendent level because of the law fragment of order in their bodies. They can't learn laws and they can't use mana. This leaves the order of demorgorgs as the only path forward despite its danger.

"This still needs some work," Helios said. "It is too dangerous and it has a limit."

"I agree that it is too dangerous but unless I am willing to sacrifice some of my power, I don't see how we can get through this limit. There are no gods apart from me."

"I suggest that we return to the Original use of Soverick's project. It would certainly be an alternative capable of breaking the limit of power of the demorgorgs and also reduce the danger."

The tree father considered the suggestion and thought it was a good idea. "It could work but it is going to be dangerous to start it as we are. It would be easier to have Soverick on our side but he is still busy working on the concept for his eyes."

Helios insisted. "We will just have to do this without him. The time is ripe and there is an opportunity to test it soon."

"Then let us shall."

And so they began work on the next generation of amplification. What they have achieved already is exceptional. They have successfully created a path of power that is different from the normal paths of power. It is something that has been tried several times in the past.

Some have succeeded in creating a means other than the path of perfection to strengthen beings but most have failed. The order of demorgorgs is a success but it is not good enough for Legion.

The major problem with the demorgorg system is that it is dangerous. Transcendents are too rare to encounter amongst giants of order. They don't have bloodlines to help them after all.

The current output of transcendents that they have achieved is a result of the intensive nurturing of the giants with normal life energy from plants engineered by the tree father and grown to provide it. But even then, some of them die during the breakthrough.

No amount of resources can eliminate the danger of breaking through to transcendence without a bloodline, life essence, or divine life energy. Only those three can guarantee a breakthrough to

transcendence. So the supply of transcendents is too low for them to be wasted when they try to become demorgorgs.

Even if they have unlimited transcendents, they don't have unlimited access to demons. Demons are essential parts of the demorgorgs. Without a demon to assimilate, there can be no demorgorgs. This creates a shunt in the number of demorgorgs that can be created even if there are unlimited transcendent giants.

The scarcity of demons is a real problem right now even when there is a limited supply of transcendents because the portal to the abyss is closed. Aeternus had to do it to ensure the safety of the Zargoth plane. It stopped the supply of demons for demorgorgs to work with.

The process of capturing demons is also not easy. Many of them die during the capturing process. After all, it is easier to kill than to capture.

It doesn't help that the rate of suicides among demons has increased because of the existence of demorgorgs. Demons can sense the other demons trapped in their bodies and the pain they are going through. Most of them would rather die than go through that.

As if that isn't enough to limit the supply of demons, the process of assimilation is also dangerous to demons. Some of them die during the process.

The process of creating a demorgorg is dangerous to demons because they have been weakened before the assimilation begins. But if they are not weakened, their resistance will be too much which will make the stress on the giants too much and will lead to the death of giants.

Divine life energy cannot be used to solve this issue because the weakness of demons is a good thing. At least if demons die, the giants can try with other demons. But if a giant dies, that is a permanent loss for the demorgorgs.

Chapter 1140 Limit To Power.

The demorgorg system is dangerous to both entities despite all the advancements that Legion has made to streamline the process. It is not as dangerous as the situation Helios was in when he tried to break through and assimilate the Celestial power of the sun god, but these people are no Helios.

Helios was trying to become a transcendent while absorbing the divine power of a Celestial. The giants on the other hand are already transcents but the tree father had to make the process more dangerous to the demons for the giants of order to have this level of survival.

Now if the danger to both giants of order and demons is eliminated completely, the demorgorg system will still become obsolete because it has a limit of power. The highest rank achievable for the demorgorgs is five stars. That is the equivalent of a titan of law and it requires a living demon lord to be sealed within a transcendent.

The demorgorg system cannot seal a demon king. That is just impossible. The divine power of a Celestial cannot bind a demon king without a violent reaction. This reaction will turn the body of the giant of order into a battlefield and kill them.

If it were possible to seal a demon king, it would require a massive cost in divine energy and the constant assistance of Authority. That means the tree father will only be able to maintain a single six-star demorgorg and he will have most of his power diverted to keep the demon king sealed as long as the six-star demorgorg exists.

That is a foolish trade because a six-star demorgorg will only have the strength of a Sovereign at most. This is because the seal will have to cripple the demon king to reduce its resistance and use it which will lead to a reduction in its output.

Already, the cost of a five-star demorgorg is prohibitive. Demon lords are unique. There can be only one in an abyssal plane. That further limits the maximum amount of five-star demorgorgs that can be created. So there is a limit to the quantity and quality of power even if there is an unlimited amount of transcents and demons.

As it is, the only five-star demorgorg in existence is Hak. A demon lord is rare but it wasn't difficult for Aeternus to acquire some. But it was extremely difficult for giants of order to assimilate the lowest rank of demon lord.

The giants of order are only transcents after all. It is already a miracle that someone managed to assimilate a weak demon lord. Powerful demon lords like Beelta with half-divine stats are impossible to assimilate by the current giants of order.

The good news is that no demon lords went to waste during the process of assimilation. The assimilation didn't endanger them enough before the giants of order died.

Even four-star demorgorgs who have spent thousands of years with demon nobles sealed within them and have become used to it cannot withstand the pressure of a demon lord. A demon lord is connected to an abyssal plane after all. The only one that succeeded had a lot of help from the tree father.

Hak was and is still being reinforced by the divine power of the tree father the same way the tree father assisted Helios during his breakthrough. Except he isn't using any of his divine life energy. The divine energy of order is resisting the energy well of the abyssal plane and is preventing Hak from being overwhelmed.

This can be done for other demorgorgs too. More five-star demorgorgs can be created that way. In fact, the tree father can sacrifice some of his divine power to empower the giants instead of using demons, but what use will the demorgorgs be then?

If they need his help to have power, then it is better for the tree father to keep his power for himself and use it when needed. It will be a waste to go through that route when that divine power can be used to assist Legion. Even if they go for this inefficient method, the best that they can achieve is still the five-star demorgorg.

They have no way to seal demon kings and no way to give giants of order access to their Authority without it being detrimental to Legion. That means they won't have any Sovereign level forces.

The demorgorgs are supposed to be useful for protecting the plane and assisting the realm in the era of conquest. If they don't have Sovereigns then they can't even attempt to achieve those objectives. That's why the Tree father and Helios decided it was time to create a better system.

The tree father and Helios worked while their enemies also worked in the background. Tanya reached the borders of the kingdom of life after making her preparations. The border of the only stable kingdom is very apparent. It is stable because it is not at the threat of being destroyed by demons.

The plane has recovered nicely since the world war and the demon war that occurred after. The demons have sunk down to the depths of ruins where they hide. But some come up occasionally to feed on poor souls.

Any settlement outside the borders of the kingdom of life can be destroyed at any time by demons. There is no helping it because the only forces that can resist them are the demorgorgs and guardians of the god-king.

She stands before the border now. It is unmistakable. It is not an arbitrary line in the ground on a map. It doesn't shift or change across seasons and political fluctuations. The border is visible and indisputable. It is there for everyone to see because it has the might of the god-king to enforce it.

The translucent barrier that she is standing in front of marks the beginning of the kingdom of life. Any demon that sees it knows it is a no-go area. Rebels, like her, also know that they can't trespass unnoticed. That is until today.